Lapse of National Maternity benefit Scheme Fund

†127. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated to the States each year under the National Maternity benefit Scheme are lying unspent till date;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-utilization of this amount fully;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of children in tribal areas die due to malnutrition and in the absence of proper care; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid deaths of children due to malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) was being implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from 2001-02 to 2004-05. During the period, approximately Rs. 217.84 crores was relased to the States/ UTs. Out of this, UCs to the tune of Rs. 179.97 crore has been received from the States/UTs. for the balance amount, state are being purrued to send the UCs. It is a fact that some of the States could not utilize the entire amount released to them due to weak implementation at the districts and sub-district level.

(c) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections.

(d) The steps taken to improve the nutritional status of the children is given in the Statement.

Statement

The steps taken to improve the nutritional status of the children

The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through holistic coordinated interventions in areas of food security, sanitation and safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation.

To tackle the problem of malnutrition, the Government of India has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

introduced several programmes being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments which include:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(ii) National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(iii) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(iv) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(v) Reproductive and Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(vi) Poverty Alleviation Programme, (Ministry of Rural Development);

(vii) National Programme for Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme), (Department of School Education and Literacy);

(viii) Targeted Public Distribution System, (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution);

(ix) A Pilot project in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls, pregnant and nursing mothers, (Planning Commission);

(x) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

As far as ICDS Scheme is concerned, the following steps have been taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under the Scheme include:

- Expansion of the Scheme from existing 5652 Projects, 7.54 lakh Anganwadi centres and 10886 Mini-AWCs to 6291 Projects, 10.53 lakh Anganwadi Centres and 36847 Mini-AWCs.
- Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition.
- Sharing of 50 per cent cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.

➢ Constant emphasis on States to:

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
- Ensure effective convergence of health nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

Meagre pay to Aganwadi Workers

†128. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anganwadi workers and helpers are given such a meager pay or honorarium that they are unable to make their both ends meet;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards staying of dharna demonstration by these workers and helpers;

(c) the amount of consolidated pay or honorarium paid by Central and State Governments to these workers and helpers; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the honorarium/pay to make this scheme effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers (AWHs) as "honorary workers" from the local community. However, in order to give recognition to their voluntary efforts, they are paid a monthly honorarium, as decided by the Government from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The honorarium being paid to Anganwadi Workers out of grant-in-aid released by the Government of India ranges from Rs. 938/- to Rs. 1063/- per month, depending upon their qualification and experience. Anganwadi Helpers are paid an honorarium of Rs. 500/- per month. Further, some States are also paying additional honorarium/monetary incentives to Anganwadi workers/Helpers, for work other than ICDS, out of their own resources, as given in the Statement annexed (*See* below)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.